IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An expansion valve comprising:

a cassette unit containing major components of the expansion valve; and

a housing having a housing refrigerant path extending along a longitudinal direction and cassette unit receiving hole in fluid communication with and extending transversely to the refrigerant path and sized for accommodating the cassette unit via a seal member; wherein

the cassette unit comprises a pipe member, a cassette unit refrigerant path formed to the pipe member, a flange member connected to an end of the pipe member, a lid member covering the flange member, a diaphragm disposed between the flange member and the lid member, and a valve mechanism for transmitting a displacement of the diaphragm to a valve member so as to control the flow of refrigerant; and

the housing is formed integrally with an evaporator of an air conditioner.

2. (ORIGINAL) An expansion valve according to claim 1, wherein the housing is joined to the evaporator via a brazing means.

3. (ORIGINAL) An expansion valve according to claim 1, wherein the housing and the evaporator are communicated via a pipe.

4. (ORIGINAL) An expansion valve according to claim 1, wherein the housing is disposed within a refrigerant tank of the evaporator.

5. (NEW) An expansion valve according to claim 1, wherein the housing refrigerant path includes a first housing refrigerant path section and a second housing refrigerant path section extending parallel to the first refrigerant path section and the cassette unit receiving hole includes a first stepped hole portion and a second stepped hole portion in communication with the first stepped hole portion, the first housing refrigerant path section being in direct fluid communication with the

first stepped hole portion and the second housing refrigerant path section being in direct fluid communication with the second stepped hole portion.

6. (NEW) An expansion valve according to claim 5, wherein the first stepped hole portion is larger than the second stepped hole portion.

7. (NEW) An expansion valve according to claim 1, wherein the housing refrigerant path communicates with an evaporator refrigerant path of the evaporator when the housing is integrally formed therewith.